

some supper, round which the Ladies all sat & were
waited on by the gentlemen, then retired up-stairs
again, leaving the gentlemen to take theirs alone -
Then some more music, then back, to bed! -

Saturday was a rainy day, so our plan of seeing the
Zoo had to be given up, & instead we went to West-
minster Abbey - It is a very beautiful Church out-
side & in, grand & harmonious in architecture &
beautiful proportions - Higher than is generally in
England - The Chapels, quite surrounding the Choir,
are full of interesting monuments & beautiful bits of
work - Henry the VII Chapel for all know, the Shrine
of Edward the Confessor a sort of raised, little Chapel
behind the main Choir, & so many kings & queens buried
there! - They have cleaned the most dust from some
of the old effigies, or parts of them, & shewn how they
were inlaid with color & gilded so richly, & some of
the tombs all mosaic work - Didnt we see Elizabeth,
& Mary of Scots, & Eleanor, & the vault where the Nor-
thumberlands have been buried for centuries save
still, dont that sound grand? And then in the
nave all the wonderful specimens of that hideous
time in English art, where in one you see the man
blee sea, & the ship at the bottom with "all things
strange & rare" about it, & the man with the tow turned

Kew - Nov. 5 - '69 -

My dear Sue,

Friday the Laurences called
on us, Dr. Gray having gone & town meaning
to see him, as he had a note saying he was ex-
pects they should meet - I could not but ad-
mire Mr. Laurence's energy & cheerfulness, when
we see him so infirm - He has to be carried in
one of those ingenious English Chairs & carry
people up & down stairs in, & then when sent
down make a nice arm chair - It was crossed
work getting up our little, narrow, winding stairs -
Saturday, Dr. Gray & I went again to town & did
more shopping - Then separating, he went to lunch
with James Laurence, & I made my way back to
Kew alone - Sunday morn. he was off early to join
Chas. & the girls at Oxford - And knowing things &
people there so well, he was able to put them
through very successfully, & they arrived Monday
ev. in fine spirits - Tuesday aft. the Laurences
came down to us through the gardens & Dr. Gray went
& meet them, I staying waiting for the Church,
who came to London that week, Mr. Church to
preach at the ordination of the Bishop of Salisbury.

We were very glad to have the chance to take them by the hands once more, before, as Mr. Church says of our crossing the Atlantic, "departing into space."

Tuesday had been an excursion planned to St. Albans with Mrs. Hooker, to lunch with a friend of hers - I had not felt very bright & the morning was bitter cold, so I gave up going; but the others went & had a delightful day - seeing the church where Lord Bacon was buried, old Roman remains, & then the very interesting Abbey of St. Albans - I went to Richmond on some errands for a couple of hours, & was glad I had made the nice decision to delay, as it was very severe, with a high wind - Thursday we set off for London, all in our best attire for the Ordination - The new bishop was Mrs. Church's Uncle, & she had kindly got tickets for us, & told us they meant to be early, because of the crowd - And I was surprised to see so many around the doors when we got there, ten minutes before they were opened - The Bishop's tickets admitted us to seats under the ^{Eastern} ~~Western~~ ^{cross}, which is where nave & transept cross, & we got good places, especially to hear the sermon, but I fancy those whose seats were in the transept could hear little. Only a small part of the abbey is screened off for seats for service, & yet when the

great light is considered, I fancy it requires a very powerful voice to be heard over all that small part - Mr. Church has a very pleasant voice, but it was scarcely strong enough - It was a good sermon, in which certainly he put & maintained it well for the episcopacy, & yet was liberal too - But I had rather have heard him in one of these especial forms - You can't expect me to give a description of the ceremony - I could see but little of the choir where the ordination went on, but we had a good sight of the gentle, kindly face of the elderly bishop when he went first to put on his velvet, & then ^{again} to put on his "lawn sleeve" - We saw the Bishop of Exeter & the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Tait, with his strong, sensible face - Dean Stanley was away, so there was only the sub-dean - And the registrar & recorder in their funny, curled horse-hair wigs, some a red-silk gown! - The music was beautiful & some of the chorister singing, lovely! - We met Mrs. Church going in, but we did not stay for the Communion Service - We got out about 2 & the first aim was lunch - Then Charles & the girls went for some calls, & Dr. Gray & I to do some shopping - Friday Ev. Mrs. Hooker had a little party, so we all donned our best attire, & heard some & met singing & met some pleasant people - Had a very hands

lunched there & then scattered, I going back for a
hasty run through some of the Egyptian things - Then
Dr. Gray & I went to Mr. Mashelyns, where we were
to dine & spend the night - Mrs. M. is most sweet
& charming, intelligent & refined, & great simplicity.
She received me very kindly, after taking off my bonnet
put me on the easiest of couches, covered me with
a silk down quilt, & left me for an hour's rest & quiet.
Then she came with the tea-tray, Mr. M. came in,
& the three pretty little girls, the oldest a perfect little
St. John, of Raphael - Dinner was at 7 1/2 - Mr. Mas.
Huxley, Mr. Farrar, Secretary of the Board of Trade,
made up the 7, & about as agreeable a dinner as ever
I sat down to - Exquisite cooking, nicely & quietly
served; & such firm & quickness, & wit & sharpness!
Mr. Huxley maybe a sharp antagonist, but he is cer-
tainly a most companionable & agreeable man, & they
all played so into each other! In the Ev. later, came
in Mr. Grant Duff, & I was amazed when I found
it was 11 1/2 - Mr. Mashelyns, though a mineralogist,
has an especial hobby for gems, that is cameos in
intaglio, & has made a great study of them, - he has some
very nice ones, & casts of ever so many, & showed straight
me ever so much. Nothing could be kinder than they
were in every way - We were sorry to say good bye


down & head up rising above it into the white (2)
marble clouds, flecked about on a slate colored
sky, & the angels tooing away among the same clouds,
as large as life! - Happily he has not on a full bot-
tomed wig as one other hero has, the rest of his costume
being Roman Armour - But independently of all as-
sociations the whole building contains a wonderful
history of art, from the Crusader stretched in effigy
on his coffin, hands joined in prayer, sleep crossed, & the
abbots & queens so solemn & strict as if their last thought
was prayer, & where they turn them on one side, as if
the thought had changed to taking a last look at the
world, then more action, then the mere every day
look, then abundant ^{with weeping angels & sobbing battlements,} of prospectors, then representing
the man as he sat & looked every day, good & life-like,
but entirely inappropriate to a tomb, & now the taste
seems going back to the Greek, & reposeing figure - We
lingered in poet's corner, & then looked round the
statuaries, & at last came away, & went to the new
House of Parliament - They are a wonderful pile of most
elaborate work finish, but too monotonous, I think,
the same idea stretching on over & over again - But
the towers are fine, & the little touches of gilding sets
them off, especially when the sun comes out. There
are miles of passages & hundreds of rooms, & some grand

halls, but what we especially wanted to see, the Corridor where the great frescoes are, was undergoing alterations & would not be opened until January! We saw the House of Lords gay & ornamented, & the House of Commons very much plainer, & seemingly quite too small - Then we went out by Westminster Hall & saw its wonderfully fine oaken roof, but a surly policeman would only let us look into the long hall, statues at the sides, leading to the Houses of Parliament - Why - we could not enter there seemed no reason but his brief authority - Then we took a cab to lunch with Charles' friends the Russells Scott's & Dr. Gray & I saw Mrs. Scott & Katie in Catania - very nice & pleasant in Mrs. S. - Mr. S. a true John Bull in looks, & the other daughter & daughter-in-law & so very pleasant - Lunch means dinner, only less formal - After lunch I went in to see the invalid daughter who has still suffering from an uncomfortable accident, the ceiling of the room in which she was sitting having fallen, & she got a very bad bruise upon the leg - She & Katie are to follow us in our lodgings here, for change of air -

Sunday morn. Dr. Gray R., C. & I went to hear Mr. Martineau - It is a dingy, ugly, little chapel in Little Portland St., & only a small audience that day, & it seemed a shame such a man in such a great place

as London, where so many might be reached & edified, should not have had a large church full - He preached a very fine sermon, & the whole service I particularly liked, & never saw anyone whose whole manner of conducting it was so satisfactory - He is an admirable reader, & so a great contrast to the majority of English clergymen - Then we went to lunch with Sir Chas. & Lady Lyell, meeting Mrs. Col. Lyell & her eldest son, who takes strongly to science - They were all very charming & pleasant, & we had a very nice time - Lady Lyell keeps the same sweet, fresh face that seems never to grow old - When we got back to Kew, Dr. Gray & the girls went to see a Mrs. Hodson, a lady who has the appointment of house-keeper to Kew Palace - Which means she has a little cottage to live in, & her maid to see the Palace is aired & swept - But it was a ~~rare~~^{rare} privilege to see it, for it is very much left as in the times of "Farmer George" & Queen Charlotte - Then they had tea, "Kettle drum" is afternoon tea - Monday morn. we all went to the British Museum, Miss Sulvan meeting us there with Miss Gatty, & Mrs. Maskelyne kindly took us through Cuvier's speech cases, their history of gradual change showing the progress of Art, & so through bronzes & glass, & so a most wonderfully interesting morn. - We all

Much love to you all from your ever
faithful
Jane Gray —

(3)
next morn'g., but I was to meet Chas. & the girls at
the Station as they came from New, & see go to the
Tower - So we marched in company with 8 or
10 others, under the charge of one of the beef-eaters,
 round through the magnificent armouries, with
armour from the time of the Saracens & Crom-
well's buff coats, & its device, seeing Bluff King Hal's,
& Charles I when 10 years old, & all sorts of weapons,
oc. of all times & countries, & the morden rooms
where are muskets by the thousands, & Sun flowers
& passion-flowers, trailing vines & stars, the Prince
of Wales' wedding-cake, & every sort of device, ^{made} of sword-
blades & gun-stocks, ram-rods & pistols, in the most
superbous way - We saw the old Chapel of Norman
times, & the tower where Elizabeth was prisoner, where
Henry VIII was murdered, & the young princes bones
were discovered, through passages in the walls
1577. thick, saw the block & executioners axe, & in-
struments of torture, & the enclosure in the yard
where Anne Boleyn & Jane Grey were beheaded, &
Beauchamp Tower where the cell walls are covered
with inscriptions, so patiently cut in, telling of such heavy
hours, & then having seen the regalia, crowns & gold
sashes, & naces, swords oc. filed out again, & drove off
to for just a peep at the grand interior of St. Paul's -

Then after just looking round, I left the others, & took a cab to meet Dr. Gray at Mr. Darmin's brother's, where they are all passing the week, & where we were to see them once more & say good-bye - It was a very short say, & these good-byes to so many kind friends are far from pleasant - Wednesday I wisely gave up the National Gallery - Oh! - we came down Tuesday to tea at Prof. Owen's, at Gower - A quiet, pleasant day - Both he & his wife very quiet people, but full of cordiality, & information - On leaving there early, we found mother had come at last, & went in to greet her for a few minutes - She & I had some nice talks next day, as I did some packing - We went to dine with Miss Sullivan at 7 1/2, a full dress dinner party, going in a fly with Dr. & Mrs. Hooper - We met there Prof. Owen, & Mrs. Gatty the authoress, who is making Miss S. a visit - Of course every thing was very handsome, & I sat down to a round table, & the dinner very elegant - And Miss S. is always charming & agreeable, & a most delightful hostess - Indeed she has carried off a good bit of all our hearts - Prof. Owen handed me in to dinner, & we talked Egypt - He was with the Prince of Wales last winter - Mrs. Gatty is a great invalid, & very much changed, they say -

Yesterday, Thursday, I had a hasty visit to Wydenham - I wanted to see ⁱⁿ the Crystal Palace, the Pompeian Court, & mediæval architecture - There are nice arrangements for luncheon in all these places, & after lunch & a little look, Dr. Gray went to London to dine with Mr. Bentham & go to the Linnean Society, & I, after more looking, made my way back to Kew by Clapham junction, that wonderful place where 800 trains pass a day, & lines cross three deep, & thread this way & that in the most bewildering way! - Today I have been ^{packing} quiet tomorrow I go to the National Gallery & Sunday to Temple Church - Monday we go to Liverpool, Tuesday sail, & this is my last letter, I suppose -

Today I received the last home letters - C. & the girls went to the Zoological Gardens, which to my regret, I had to give up - They are just back from a social dinner at Miss Sullivan's -

So good night & good bye! How glad I shall be to have the next fortnight over! And how provoked we are Charles is going on the 10th! - It is too, too bad!